

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Durward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,202). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring distances between a shared object and client avatars and adjusting transmission rates of state renewal information according to the measured distances. In contrast, Durward discloses adjusting the update frequency of elements based on their location which space the element is located in. The space (either a relevant or priority space) is established by the central control unit 14. Durward further discloses that proximity is calculated to determine which position, sound and motion data is transmitted to which user so that each user does not need to receive data that it would not be able to use. See, for example, column 8, lines 40-65. Durward does not teach measuring distances between a shared object and a client avatar and using the measured information to adjust transmission rates of state renewal information. In fact, Durward is silent regarding adjusting transmission rates. Accordingly Durward fails to teach, or even suggest, a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring distances between a shared object and client avatars and adjusting transmission rates of state renewal information according to the measured distances, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Durward in view of Akazawa et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0113809). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 2-4 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1 and because Akazawa does not remedy the deficiencies of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Durward in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,669). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 recites, in part, a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring a distance between the shared object and a client avatar and calculating a dead reckoning threshold value with the measured distance taken into account. As admitted in the Office Action on page 6, Durward fails to teach or suggest calculating a dead reckoning value. The Office Action alleges that Huang teaches this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Huang discloses that by using the dead reckoning method, a predicted avatar position can be determined by an equation that takes into account, time, the avatar's current position, and the avatar's speed of movement. Huang fails to teach or even suggest that a dead reckoning threshold value is calculated based on a measured distance between a client and a shared object. Accordingly, no combination of Durward and Huang teach or suggest a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring a distance between the shared object and a client avatar and calculating a dead reckoning threshold value with the measured distance taken into account, as recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 5 by virtue of its dependence upon claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

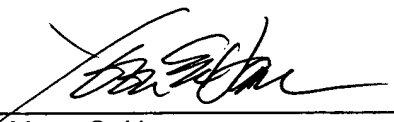
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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